

1 **Amendment to the Claims**

2 **In the Claims:**

3 Please cancel Claims 91-95.

4 Please amend Claims 57 and 71 as follows:

5 1-56. (Cancelled)

6 57. (Currently Amended) A method of using synthetic fabric scrap comprising delustered  
7 synthetic fibers as a sorbent material for a liquid hydrocarbon, comprising the steps of:

8 (a) sorting textile scrap to reduce an amount of natural fiber based textile scrap in  
9 a quantity of textile scrap, such that the quantity of textile scrap comprises a majority of synthetic  
10 textile scrap and a minority of natural fiber based textile scrap;

11 (b) shredding the quantity of textile scrap to produce a mass comprising a plurality  
12 of discrete ~~recycled synthetic~~ fibers, the mass comprising a majority of recycled delustered synthetic  
13 fibers and a minority of recycled natural fibers, the mass being produced without coating the discrete  
14 recycled fibers comprising the mass to enhance their value as an absorbent;

15 (c) bringing said mass into contact with a liquid hydrocarbon;

16 (d) allowing said mass to sorb the liquid hydrocarbon; and

17 (e) mechanically collecting said mass after the hydrocarbon product has been  
18 sorbed by the mass.

19 58. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding the  
20 quantity of textile scrap is carried out until the quantity of textile scrap is processed into a majority of  
21 relatively shorter fiber lengths, and a minority of relatively longer fiber lengths.

22 59. (Original) The method of Claim 58, further comprising the step of blending said  
23 relatively shorter fiber lengths and said relatively longer fiber lengths together to form a sorbent  
24 wadded mass characterized as having a substantial volume of internal interstices, said relatively  
25 longer fiber lengths helping to bind said sorbent wadded mass together into a flexible and cohesive  
26 mass.

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60. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of allowing said wadded mass to sorb the liquid hydrocarbon comprises the steps of:

(a) allowing said wadded mass to adsorb a portion of said liquid hydrocarbon upon surfaces of the relatively shorter fibers and the relatively longer fibers; and

(b) allowing said wadded mass to absorb a portion of said liquid hydrocarbon within said substantial volume of internal interstices.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein said delustered fibers were delustered with titanium dioxide.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding the quantity of textile scrap is carried out so as to produce a majority of said synthetic fibers having a length in the range of from about 10 mm to about 20 mm, and a minority of said synthetic fibers having a length in the range of from about 75 mm to about 100 mm.

64. (Canceled)

65. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of sorting the textile scrap to reduce the amount of natural fiber based textile scrap in the quantity of textile scrap comprises the step of sorting the textile scrap so as to limit the amount of natural fiber based textile scrap in the quantity of textile scrap to about ten percent or less.

66. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of controlling a processing rate while shredding the fabric scrap to achieve a desired reduction of fabric scrap into fiber.

67. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of reducing an amount of flags present in the fiber being generated to a desired level.

68. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of adjusting a height between a table on which the synthetic fabric scrap is disposed and a cutting drum employed to shred the synthetic fabric scrap.

69. (Original) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of shredding comprises the step of adjusting a height between a table on which the synthetic fabric scrap is disposed and a pinning drum employed to shred the synthetic fabric scrap.

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70. (Original) The method of Claim 57, further comprising the step of segregating synthetic fabric scrap to remove larger pieces of synthetic fabric scrap, and then shredding only a remaining mass of the synthetic fabric scrap.

71. (Currently Amended) A method for removing liquid hydrocarbon from a surface contaminated with the liquid hydrocarbon, comprising the steps of:

(a) sorting textile scrap to reduce an amount of natural fiber based textile scrap in a quantity of textile scrap, such that the quantity of textile scrap comprises a majority of synthetic textile scrap and a minority of natural fiber based textile scrap;

(b) shredding the quantity of textile scrap to produce a mass comprising a plurality of discrete recycled synthetic fibers, the mass comprising a majority of recycled delustered synthetic fibers and a minority of recycled natural fibers, the mass being produced without coating the discrete recycled fibers to enhance their value as an absorbent;

(c) collecting the liquid hydrocarbon by:

(i) bringing said delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent into contact with the liquid hydrocarbon; and

(ii) allowing the delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent to adsorb the liquid hydrocarbon from the contaminated surface, adsorbed hydrocarbons accumulating upon a plurality of rough, delustered surfaces of said delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent; and

(d) mechanically removing said delustered synthetic fiber based sorbent from the contaminated surface.

72.-95. (Canceled)